

The live oak tree, estimated to be more than 1,000 years old, grows in the center of West Texas Avenue. It has lived since Native Americans roamed the coastal plains, the battles of the Texas Revolution were fought and the Texas oil field discoveries were made.

The 440-foot tall Fred Hartman Bridge, a steel cable bridge that spans across the Houston Ship Channel, is Baytown's symbol of modern engineering and Texas-sized strength.

It is an honor to represent a part of Baytown as a portion of the Second Congressional District. My fellow colleague and friend, Gene Green represents the other part of Baytown in the United States Congress. Congressman Green and I are proud to have worked with Baytown Mayor Stephen DonCarlos and the city council on numerous projects concerning the city. They are commended for their leadership in helping Baytown grow.

I look forward to seeing Baytown prosper in the future and wish the city Happy Birthday as it celebrates its 60th anniversary.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO TIBOTEC THERAPEUTICS

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Tibotec Therapeutics for their innovation and corporate responsibility in developing new, effective treatments for people living with HIV/AIDS. On Friday, January 18, 2008, the Food and Drug Administration approved Tibotec's second HIV drug, INTELENCE™ (etravirine), for the treatment of HIV infection.

In my home state of North Carolina, there are an estimated 31,000 people living with HIV/AIDS, many of whom may not be aware that they are infected with this life-threatening illness. Unfortunately, the Black Community in North Carolina as well as others across the southern United States are disproportionately impacted by HIV/AIDS. A high percentage of people in these communities are diagnosed in the later stages of HIV disease—a fact that further complicates their chances for successful ongoing treatment. Furthermore, Black women are disproportionately impacted by HIV/AIDS in our state, with an HIV infection rate almost seventeen times higher than among non-Hispanic white women.

We are all aware of the success HIV therapies have had on prolonging and enhancing the quality of life for those infected with HIV/AIDS. As the infected population lives longer and becomes increasingly resistant to current treatment regimens; there is a growing need to focus on access to newer therapies for treatment experienced. HIV drug manufacturers are being challenged to meet the treatment needs of this changing population. Federal and State governments, public health programs, medical and community-based providers in addition to drug manufacturers are all challenged to find ways to better serve disproportionately impacted and underserved communities.

Tibotec Therapeutics is also a leader in reaching out to underserved communities highly impacted by HIV. A primary example of

this is Tibotec's GRACE study, a first-of-its-kind clinical trial that will compare gender differences in the efficacy, safety and tolerability of an FDA-approved HIV therapy in women, and will also explore racial differences in treatment outcomes.

Tibotec Therapeutics, an operating company of Johnson & Johnson, has a strong history of advancing the science of HIV treatment, and INTELENCE™ is another shining example of this cutting-edge research and development. INTELENCE™, also known as TMC 125, is the first new drug in the NNRTI class to be approved in a decade. It brings new hope to HIV patients, whose HIV virus has become resistant to other HIV therapies, including drugs in the same NNRTI class. Notably, the FDA approved INTELENCE™ through an accelerated approval procedure—a process that is reserved for the early approval of drugs that show a meaningful therapeutic advantage over existing treatments for serious or life-threatening diseases.

Finally, Tibotec Therapeutics acted responsibly in pricing INTELENCE™, a fact recognized by many leaders in the HIV community. In fact, one leading HIV patient advocate stated, "With the introduction of INTELENCE, Tibotec Therapeutics has demonstrated exceptional leadership in working with the HIV community in an effort to address pricing and access issues. Tibotec has repeatedly recognized the necessity of responsibly pricing HIV products and should be commended for its leadership in this regard." This type of responsible corporate behavior is especially welcomed in my state of North Carolina, which has struggled in the past to provide access to HIV therapies for eligible lower-income individuals.

In closing, I would like to once again, I commend Tibotec Therapeutics for its innovation and corporate responsibility. I applaud the fact that North Carolinians living with HIV/AIDS will now have access to a new and important treatment option, affording them the possibility of living healthier and productive lives.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD GILMER

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the inspiring career of Donald Gilmer, of Augusta, MI. A dedicated and selfless individual, Don has enthusiastically served the public for the past 33 years.

Don's career has served as an example of the definition of "public servant" and could be added to any dictionary listing.

Don has served Michigan citizens in a wide variety of significant roles, including 11 terms as a member of the Michigan House of Representatives, 3 of which he served as the chairman of the Appropriations Committee. Don has also served on the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners, as Michigan's lottery commissioner, as Governor John Engler's budget director, and most recently, as Kalamazoo County's Administrator. His services to Kalamazoo County and to the State of Michigan are truly commendable.

As my good friend retires, he closes one chapter of his inspiring career and embarks on

a new phase of his life. I am confident that this retirement is far from the end of Don's public service and that he will remain committed to the citizens of our great State and community. Don's humor and kind heart will be greatly missed by his colleagues. I wish Don all the best in retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, on January 16, 2008, I erroneously voted in favor of an amendment offered by Representative JOE WILSON (SC) to H.R. 2768 (roll No. 8), the Supplemental Mine Improvement and New Emergency Response (S-MINER) Act. Please let the record show that I intended to vote against this amendment.

HONORING JACQUELINE MONTEIRO DACOSTA

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my sympathies to a wonderful Rhode Island family who has lost a devoted loved one named Jacqueline Monteiro Dacosta and to briefly share with you the impact she had on so many lives just by being kind.

Jackie was a loving mother, sister and daughter who always exuded a sense of comfort to all. That's why she was perfect for her job as a constituent case worker in my district office in Rhode Island. For the past 11 years she reached out to countless people who sought her advice and help on a multitude of issues and she always put them at ease while they told her their life problems. She reassured them—people she had just met—that she would do what she could to help, and then she did. I have a file of letters in my office from people who wrote to me just to praise Jackie for her hard work and more than that, to recognize her kindness.

Her sudden passing took us all by surprise. We knew instantly our office would never be the same without her presence, her funny stories, her smile. When thousands showed up for her wake and funeral to celebrate her life, it was such a testament to how truly loved she was in the community. No one had seen anything like it. Her family has been overwhelmed with an outpouring of support and sympathy from all over the state.

On my next trip to Cape Verde, her family members and I will plant a tree in Jackie's memory. Her spirit on earth will be forever surrounded by the unspoiled beauty of her homeland and the sounds of the island music she loved so much. We will never forget Jackie and her special qualities that touched so many lives and made life that much better.

We join Jackie's parents, Jose and Adelisa Monteiro; her children Stephanie and Justin and her siblings, Filomena, Osvaldo and Jose Jr. in continuing to honor Jackie's memory and her joyous spirit.